

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 228903

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/EE:HGILMORE:MD

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:GTWOHIE

EUR:JAARMITAGE

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O 172222Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 228903

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 5164 ACTION SECSTATE VIENNA
BONN MOSCOW BUDAPEST BUCHAREST DIA USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR USAREUR CINCUSAFE 17 OCTOBER.

QUOTE

S E C R E T BELGRADE 5164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO PINT PFOR PGOV MOPS

SUBJ: RUMOR OF TITO ILLNESS, WARSAW PACT REACTION PLANNING

1. FRG DEFENSE ATTACHE HOLTORFF HAS INFORMED ALUSNA OF FOLLOWING:
AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR CALLED IN FRG AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA EVENING
OCT 16 TO TELL HIM THAT (A) TITO'S HEALTH IS FAILING RAPIDLY,
AND (B) A STAFF OF SOVIET OR WARSAW PACT OFFICERS IS ASSEMBLED
IN HUNGARY WITH MISSION OF PLANNING PACIFICATION
OF YUGOSLAVIA AFTER TITO. STRICTLY PROTECT ALL SOURCES CITED.

2. ANOTHER RUMOR (RELATED OCT 16 BY EMBASSY CHAUFFEUR) IS THAT
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WORD IN BELGRADE MEDICAL CIRCLES HAS IT THAT TITO HAS SUFFERED A

STROKE OCT 12 AND HAS LOST THE POWER OF SPEECH.

3. ALL EMBASSY ELEMENTS WILL BE ALERT TO FURTHER CONFIRMATION/RE-
FUTATION THESE RUMORS BUT WILL AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR SPREAD.
HOWEVER, FRG DEFENSE ATTACHE IS RELATING HIS STORY ABOUT TOWN IN
ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM, SO IT WILL START COMING BACK FROM SEVERAL
DIRECTIONS VERY SOON.

4. BELGRADE MILITARY INDICATORS BEING CHECKED BY DAO.REPORTS
WILL FOLLOW.
TOON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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